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CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
OFFICE OF
THE CITY ATTORNEY
AND
CORPORATION COUNSEL

August 4, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Lee Morrigan
Lmorrigan.vt@gmail.com

Re: Public Records Request

Dear Lee Morrigan,

The City is in receipt of your public records request dated July 14, seeking:

“All communications, including but not limited to emails, text messages, memos, and internal reports, sent or received by City Councilor Becca Brown McKnight between May 1, 2025 and the present that reference or include data from the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Department or any other entity regarding a reported decrease in heroin use, crack use, public defecation, sex solicitation, and related criminal activity in the Marketplace Parking Garage, specifically in connection to the relocation of the Food Not Cops lunch distribution to City Hall Park.

This request is prompted by Councilor Brown McKnight’s public statement during City Councilor Items at the Monday, July 14, 2025 Burlington City Council meeting, where she referenced information allegedly provided by the Sheriff’s Department citing a 75% decrease in these activities.

Please include communications between Councilor Brown McKnight and the Chittenden County Sheriff’s Department, as well as any communications with City of Burlington departments, elected officials, or outside agencies related to that claim.

Suggested keyword filters for this search include:

- “Marketplace garage”
- “Sheriff” or “Sheriff’s Department”
- “heroin”
- “crack”
- “public defecation”

- “sex solicitation”
- “Food Not Cops”
- “FNC”
- “City Hall Park”
- “lunch distribution”
- “75% decrease” or “75 percent””

The City has identified records responsive to your request. Responsive documents are being provided to you as an attachment to the email transmitting this letter. Responsive documents are labeled as REC001 through REC004.

Information exempt from public inspection and copying has been redacted pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 317(c). The redactions are noted in the records, which both serves to identify the portions of the records that are being withheld from public inspection and copying, and the asserted statutory basis for the exemption in accordance with 1 V.S.A. § 318(c)(2)(A), (B). Specifically, the City is redacting:

- “Records which, if made public pursuant to this subchapter, would cause the custodian to violate any statutory or common law privilege.” 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(4). These records contain attorney-client privileged communications.

No responsive records have been withheld in full.

You have the right to appeal redaction and exemption decisions to the Mayor, Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 318(c)(1). Appeals should be made in writing and directed to the Mayor at 149 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401 or Mayor@burlingtonvt.gov, with a copy to the City Attorney’s Office at the below mailing address or publicrecordsrequest@burlingtonvt.gov.

Please contact me if you have any questions specific to the City’s response to your Public Records Request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph Dempsey

Joseph Dempsey
Public Information Officer
City Attorney’s Office
City of Burlington
jdempsey@burlingtonvt.gov